(c) Reception Centres were opened at the airports by the Regional Passport Offices which disbursed financial assistance as subsistence and for meeting incidental expenditure on need basis.

Train passes were issued to them to enable them to travel to their hometowns. The concerned State Governments made arrangements for transport of the passengers from the railway stations to their residennces. Where necessary, they also provided transit accommodation.

Customs facilities were liberally extended to all evacuees.

Evacuees were permitted facility of conversion of Kuwaiti Dinars equivalent to Rs. 10,000 on arrival.

For admission of the wards and children of the evacuees in the schools, requirement of Transfer Certificate and other documents was dispensed with.

Chukha Haydel Project in Bhutan

668. SHRI JAGADISH JANI Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended financial assistance for execution of Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan;

(b) if so, the cost of the project and amount financed by Government to Bhutan for executing that Project;

(c) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between India and Bhutan thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of the project is Rs. 245 91 crores. The project has been financed by the Government of India in 60:40 grant cum loan ratio.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relations with Sri Lanka

669. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposal under their consideration to establish good neighbourly relations with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the steps taken in recent months in that direction, and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) to (c) It has always been the Government's policy to promote good-neighbourly relations with Sri Lanka. The Government is committee to the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and of a negotiated, peaceful settlement of the ethnic issue.

Construction of Itchampalli Project Land

670. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an area approximately at a distance of ten kilometres to the merging point of the sub-river Indravati where the river Godavari flows narrowly in between the Hillocks, is ideal for construction of Itchampalli Project Land as was proposed in the year 1945;

(b) whether representation dated 27-9-1990 in this regard has been received by the former Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to the proposal for Itchampalli project; and

(d) whether this project will help to ease the flood problem in the flood prone districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) (a) to (d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are required to jointly survey, plan and formulate the report and execute the Itchampalli multi-purpose project. The suggestion dated 27-9-1990 received from the State Yuva Janata Dal has been brought to the notice of the State Government

Clearance for afforestation

671. SHRI E. BALANANDAN. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance from the Forest Department for Pooyamkutty Hydel Project in Kerala is yet to be given in spite of the fact that Kerala Government has fulfilled the demand of the Forest Department for alternative sites for afforestation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in clearance of Pooyamkutty Hydel Project in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government of Kerala for diversion of 300 1 8 ha. of forest land for construction of Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project Stage-I is under process for decision.

Committee to Review Cabotage Law

672 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has set-up a Committee to review the CABOTAGE LAW;

(b) whether the said Committee has recommended exemption of Madras and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports from the restrictions under Section 407 and 408 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958,

(c) whether Cochin Port Trade Union Action Council Cochin has urged for granting exemption to Cochin Port from the said restrictions; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government on the request for exemption of Cochin Port?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) A Committee was set up.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The representation of Cochin Port Trade Union Action Council was considered. The Council has requested relaxation of Cabotage Laws in respect of the Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin. The Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin Port has been proposed to be included in VIII Plan which is yet not finalised. Therefore, the question of such an exemption does not arise.

Pay Scale of Scientific Assistant, Botanical Survey of India

673. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the legal opinion sought by the Botanical Survey of India Employees' Asociation, Calcutta with regard to the interpretation and implementation of the judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal on the question of allocation of pay scale of Rs. 550—900 to the post of Scientific Assistant, Botanical Survey of India, is under consideration of Government as promised vide Do No.